





THE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

### Our 36th Season

The Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1978 by Sheldon Bair and is a community orchestra of professional and amateur volunteer musicians. The Susquehanna Symphony's home is in Harford County, Maryland, near the mouth of the Susquehanna River. The Orchestra performs a subscription series of concerts every year in addition to outdoor and chamber music concerts. The Orchestra has performed opera and ballet, as well as standard orchestral repertoire, and is known for its premieres of new works and performances of unusual repertoire. The Orchestra performed in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City for over 3,000 people in November 2007, and at Carnegie Hall for 2,500 people in October 2009.

This year marks the 36th Season of the Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra. Such longevity would not be possible without your support. We thank you for attending this evening's concert, and look forward to many more years of making music!

### Mission Statement

The Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra (SSO) strives to stimulate creativity and intellectual growth in the local community and volunteer musicians through the performance of diverse orchestral works.

### Thank You!

The SSO would like to thank the Town of Bel Air for their help in coordinating the Bel Air High School accommodations. We are also indebted to Paul Labe, Dean for Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts at HCC for providing rehearsal space. We thank BAHS Principal Greg Komondor; Terri Matthews, Music Department Chair; and especially Paul Bowden, Drama Department Chair for concert night support. We thank our ticket outlets; The Open Door Café, for providing such delicious intermission treats and after concert dinner; and our donors who make sharing excellent orchestral music with our community possible. Please patronize the advertisers and businesses which support us (both in this program and on our Web site) and tell them the SSO sent you.

Cover Photo of SSO: Stefan Antwarg

### **Please Note:**

- Silence pagers, cell phones, and signal watches during the performance.
- The use of cameras and recording devices is prohibited.
- Latecomers will be seated only between movements/selections.
- All children should be carefully supervised so that they are not disruptive to the musicians or the audience.
- Smoking is prohibited anywhere on school property.

Thank you for your cooperation. Please enjoy this evening's performance.



Sir Hamilton Harty

(1879 - 1941)

The Londonderry Air

Sir Malcolm Arnold

(1921-2006)

Symphony No. 5, Op. 74

Tempestuoso Andante con moto Con fuoco Risoluto

### **Intermission**

Sir William Walton

(1902-1983)

Touch Her Soft Lips and Part from "Henry V"

Sir Edward Elgar

(1857 - 1934)

Cello Concerto in E Minor, Op. 85

Adagio – Moderato – Lento – Allegro molto Adagio

Allegro

Cello: Alexis Lee

The Arnold Symphony was acquired through the G. Schirmer rental library. The Celesta was acquired through Drums Unlimited in Washington, D.C.

Note: When a work with multiple movements is performed, please hold all applause until after the final movement. Thank you.







The Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra is supported by funds from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive, and the Harford County Government through the Harford County Cultural Arts Board. Funding for the Maryland State Arts Council is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.

### **Music Director**

Sheldon Bair is the Founder and Music Director of the Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra (Maryland), a community orchestra of over 90 members. He holds a Bachelor's degree from Elizabethtown College (Pennsylvania) where he studied conducting with Otis Kitchen and composition with James McVoy and Darrell Douglas, and a Master's degree from Towson University (Maryland). In addition, his postgraduate studies include classes at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey. Sheldon Bair has studied conducting with Witold Rowicki in Vienna, and Marc Mostovoy, William Hudson, and Leonid Grin.



Bair teaches orchestra for the Harford County Public Schools (Maryland), is adjunct faculty for Harford Community College, is on the conducting staff for the Elizabethtown College Music Camp, and is often invited to conduct and adjudicate youth orchestras and soloists. In November 2000, Bair was bestowed the Paderewski Award for Contributions to Society and Culture at the Polish Embassy in Washington, D.C. In the fall of 2007, Bair was the guest conductor for the Flower Mound Symphony Orchestra in Dallas, Texas; in February 2011 he conducted the Oklahoma Youth Orchestra in Norman, Oklahoma; and in October 2012 he conducted the Scarborough Philharmonic in Toronto, Canada. In the fall of 2007, 93 members of the Susquehanna Symphony appeared at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, performing a program of Polish music with several choirs in front of an appreciative, standing-room-only audience. In the fall of 2009, 100 members of the Susquehanna Symphony performed on the main stage at Carnegie Hall for the same Polish impresario, performing a program of Polish works under three different conductors. Bair participated in the Sixth Malcolm Arnold Festival in Northampton, UK, in the fall of 2011 by introducing Arnold's 9th Symphony at the final Gala Concert.

Bair, a member of ASCAP, has written a number of works for student string orchestra, three works for the Susquehanna Symphony, and three works for church choir. Ensembles in Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, and Texas have performed his music. Bair's student string orchestra music is published by Howard Publications. He lives in Bel Air, Maryland, with his wife Barbara (also a musician) and two of his three children (the eldest is married and lives in Virginia).

# **SSO Cancellation Policy**

In the event of a cancellation of a concert due to weather emergencies, patrons may redeem their cancelled ticket for a ticket at the next concert.

### **Personnel**

### First Violins ‡

Wendy Bohdel, Concertmaster Joan Beckett-Armstrong Elizabeth Caughey Shannon Eaton Mary Folus Anne Lehman Enid McClure

Danielle Mover Andrew Nowakowski

Terry O'Neill Kim Politz

Christine Robbins William Spencer

Lily Wang Amy Wilkinson

### Second Violins ‡

Manfred Reek, Principal Samantha Bittorf Katie Bohdel Beverly Caswell

Gwendolyn Clemens

Sarah Folus Nikki Lancellotti

Cristine Larson

Hannah Potts

Davna Powell

Nancy Purdy Allison Redman

Martha Schmidt

Christina Simini

Alexander Weber Jennifer Yeager

# Violas ‡

Jessica Conklin, Principal Will Conway Colleen Grotke Karyn Hetmanski Avla James Lori Metzger Alison Rice

### Violoncellos ‡

Laura Ruth. Principal Claire Brennan Elaine Bundy Kim Damian Julia Dather Fred Gehris Mark Grotke Barbara Hill Michele Martin Jasmine Reeves

### Basses ‡

Brian Folus, Principal Zachary Bair Carol Benck Dylan Jennings Karen Shearman Alicia Watts Beth Weed

# Harp

Shu Jun Li Hom

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Doris Reinhardt Carol Thompson Marjorie Roberts, Piccolo

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Barbara Bair Lindsay Evans

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Mary Eilerman Joanne Mitaro Welles Still

# Piano and Celesta

Jane Martin

# Librarian

Laura Ruth

# Personnel

Managers Amy Wilkinson Anne Lehman

Stage Manager

Welles Still

### **Our Guest Performer**



Alexis Lee was born in South Korea, beginning piano lessons at age 5. She came to the United States with her family when she was 11 years old and settled in Bel Air, Maryland. She began studying the cello under Judi Famous while a student at Prospect Mill Elementary School. It was during those early years of study that she was introduced to the SSO's principal cellist, Laura Ruth, with whom Alexis studied privately for about three years. Her dreams and aspirations for her musical career began to take shape under SSO Founder and Music Director Sheldon Bair while

he was her orchestra instructor/conductor at Southampton Middle School. She studied under Cecylia Barczyk from 2001–2005 and is a graduate of the Juilliard School of Music. Mrs. Lee is presently working toward her Masters at Manhattan School of Music under the teaching of David Soyer.

Mrs. Lee has performed with the Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra in the past as well as the York Symphony Orchestra under Dr. Robert Hart Baker. She was honored to receive second place in the 28th York Symphony Concerto Competition in 2002 and received first place in the Friday Morning Music Club Gus Johansen High School String Competition in 2003.

Mrs. Lee is newly married and makes her home in Flushing, New York. There she is a member of her church orchestra, praise team, and Back to Worship band. Her goal of a music ministry is born of her desire to use God's gift to her to glorify His name.

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### **Our Pre-Concert Lecturer**

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**Dr. Matt Perry** is a licensed audiologist and local musician. A former music performance major turned hearing scientist, he offers a unique perspective when it comes to the role our ears play in listening to and enjoying music. When he is not treating patients with hearing loss, Dr. Perry can sometimes be seen performing locally. He sings tenor in the local a cappella group "Bonus Track" and recently played the role of Joseph in Phoenix Festival Theater's production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Dr. Perry is the owner of Harmony Hearing & Audiology, an

innovative audiology and hearing aid practice located in the Festival at Bel Air. Inquiries and appointment requests can be made through <HarmonyHearing. com> or by calling 410-569-5999.



# **Program Notes**

### The Londonderry Air Sir Hamilton Harty (1879–1941)

Harty, born and raised in Ireland, began his musical career as a church organist. He moved to London about the age of twenty and became an accomplished, well-known accompanist, also composing throughout his life. In 1904 he began conducting and from 1920 to 1933 was the chief conductor of the Hallé Orchestra in Manchester (named for its founder Charles Hallé). He also conducted the London Symphony Orchestra from 1932 to 1934. Shortly after leaving the LSO he began experiencing symptoms of a brain tumor. After surgery and convalescing, he guest conducted, but the tumor returned, eventually causing his death.

Harty's compositions include *An Irish Symphony*, tone poems, concertos, overtures, a cantata, chamber works, and orchestral settings of Irish songs. His setting of *The Londonderry Air* ("Danny Boy") for strings and harp, while not as well known as Percy Grainger's setting of the Northern Ireland ballad, deserves to be heard more often.

Hamilton Harty was knighted in 1925.





Symphony No. 5, Op. 74 Sir Malcolm Arnold (1921–2006)

Malcolm Arnold was a musically gifted trumpeter and composer who could be the gregarious "life of the party" (usually at the pub) with a lively sense of humor and extreme generosity. The youngest of four children raised in a strict, but loving home, he chafed at discipline imposed by others. He ended up being home-schooled and breaking rules at the Royal College of Music. He left the London Philharmonic Orchestra's principal trumpet chair in 1941 in reaction against orchestral discipline and even though he had been a conscientious objector, joined the Army.(!) In protest to being assigned to a band unit, he shot himself in the foot, was dishonorably discharged, and returned to orchestral playing again.

Having been a double major (trumpet and composition), during college and performing years he had also composed almost twenty concert pieces and had begun writing film music for documentaries. The film money allowed him to give up the trumpet and become a full time composer. Writing for full length feature films soon followed as well as commissions for "serious" orchestral works. The years 1948-1960 were his most productive period in both film and

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concert music. During one three-year period he wrote scores for fifteen major films, earning about (by today's standards) £250,000 to £300,000 per film. He won an Oscar for *The Bridge on the River Kwai* (1958) and a Novello Award for *The Inn of the Sixth Happiness* (1960).

While his music, both films and concert works, were popular with the public, the critics did not widely approve the concert pieces as they considered him to be only a writer of "light" music. This caused Arnold significant depression and by this time it was evident that in addition to having bi-polar disorder, he was also an alcoholic. By 1961 when Symphony No. 5 was written, his wife twice had to have him hospitalized after violent attacks. She decided the marriage was over, took their two children, and left him. (He later remarried, but that marriage, too, ended for the same reasons.)

If this wasn't depressing enough, Arnold was dealing with the dual suicide of his oldest brother (52) and his sister-in-law and the too early deaths of four of his closest friends: Gerald Hoffnung (34), a cartoonist, humorist, and amateur tubist who sponsored annual comic concerts (sort of orchestral British Spike Jones); Dennis Brain (36), probably the finest French horn player of the 20th century; Jack Thurston, a clarinetist; and David Paltenghi (41), a former dancer, film director, and choreographer. Symphony No. 5 is Arnold's

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reaction to these losses and contains much anger and confusion as well as some melodic remembrances of happier times.

The first movement especially has musical references to the departed friends. The chime notes G-B are for Gerald Hoffnung (B natural is H in German notation). Three notes introduced on harp and celesta G-A-H represent Gerald and Annetta (widow) Hoffnung. Clarinet and French horn solos remember Thurston and Brain. Prominent tuba parts remember Gerald and a boisterous waltz midway through is for Paltenghi. As if to satisfy the critics, Arnold occasionally uses serial (12-tone) writing (which they so admired coming from mainland Europe) in the opening and other places within the movement and the symphony. It's as if he's saying, "Yes, I can write in that style if I choose to," but it also shows his anger and confusion over his emotions.

In sharp contrast, the second movement opens with a lovely Arnold melody inspired by Annetta, with the first notes being A-A-B(H). The theme returns near the end of the movement and again near the end of the finale. The third movement contains unsettling complex rhythms with shifting patterns unevenly across the beat, abrupt tonal shifts, and extreme contrasts of dynamics. Biographers Meredith and Harris indicate the movement begins "in an atmosphere of fierce anxiety and ends in catastrophe and recrimination. ...



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But in the central section, a fascinating struggle is taking place between the forces of jollity and disaster."

The finale is a movement of conflicting emotions that opens with a trumpet call (Malcolm?) followed soon by a march-like tune played by piccolos and drums. The conflict which follows a romantic melody in the strings suggests, according to Meredith and Harris, Arnold's feelings about the loss of Aubrey. Near the end, the beautiful "Annetta" theme from the second movement returns, first in strings then in brass, but we're not left with that. The orchestra quietly shifts into a minor key ending with bells chiming out Gerald's initials once more. This ending might have been influenced, in part, by the ending of Leonard Bernstein's West Side Story, a work Arnold greatly admired.

In his Arnold biography, Hugo Cole writes of the work, "It is the emotional tone as much as the contour of its themes or the character of its harmonies that makes the work both fascinating and disturbing."

Malcolm Arnold was knighted in 1993.



The Harford Youth Orchestra will perform a free concert on Saturday, April 20, 2013 at Edgewood High School at 2:00 p.m.

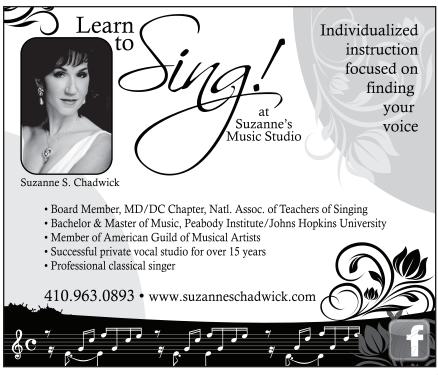


# Touch Her Soft Lips and Part from "Henry V" Sir William Walton (1902–1983)

During his sixty-year career, Walton wrote in many genres and styles, from film scores to operas and symphonies. His best known works are a ballet, *Facade*, the cantata *Belshazzar's Feast*, the *Viola Concerto*, the *Symphony No. 1*, and two coronation marches: *Crown Imperial* for George VI and *Orb and Sceptre* for Elizabeth II.

Born into a musical family, Walton took violin and piano lessons but never mastered either instrument. His success was as a singer, as both his parents were, his father also being a church organist. He became a chorister and later a student at Christ Church, one of the colleges of Oxford. After graduation he composed in the "modernist" style, but later abandoned it for the more traditional style. His music was conducted by Hamilton Harty and in the early 1940s he became a close friend of Malcolm Arnold who was twenty years younger.

During the war years, Walton wrote scores for five films, including Laurence Olivier's adaptation of Shakespeare's *Henry V* in 1944. *Touch Her Soft Lips and Part,* for strings and harp, is the fourth of five movements from the film which had been arranged by Muir Matheson, but was also included with the



second movement in Walton's *Two Pieces for Strings from "Henry V."* The orchestra will be playing from the Walton piece.

William Walton was knighted in 1951.

### Cello Concerto in E Minor, Op. 85 Sir Edward Elgar (1857–1934)

Having lived in both Victorian and Edwardian England, Elgar came to be the most dominant composer of the land since the death of Handel in 1759. This recognition was long in developing as it took many years of struggle (not until he was in his forties) for him to find his musical "voice." Great success was finally achieved with his *Enigma Variations* (1899), the oratorio *The Dream of Gerontius* (1900), and the first of his five *Pomp and Circumstance Marche*(s) (1901). His *Symphony No. 1* (1908) and *Violin Concerto* (1910) played by Fritz Keisler represent the height of his popularity. After completing *Falstaff* in 1913 he wrote only minor and occasional pieces until the *Cello Concerto* in 1919.

The concerto had a disastrous premiere because the conductor underrehearsed it, using much of the allotted time on pieces by Borodin and Scriabin instead. A week after the premiere Elgar's wife fell ill with lung cancer and died in April 1920. Afterwards, he wrote little with the exception of a 1932



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BBC commission for a symphony (No. 3) that remained unfinished upon his passing in 1934.

Cellists, thankfully, have recognized the worthiness of the concerto and have kept the work in the popular repertoire.

Edward Elgar was knighted in 1904.



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### **The SSO's Fundraiser Raffle**

A week at a resort condo—generously donated by the Ruth family—has become an annual tradition. Funds raised support the operating budget. Tickets will be available at concerts through March and from orchestra members. The drawing will be at intermission at the March concert and you need not be present to win.

- Barrier Island Station at Kitty Hawk, NC
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(The SSO is currently accepting applications for Board Membership)

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# Become a Contributor—The SSO needs your support!

# Contribute to the SSO Operating Budget—\$45,000 (approximately \$9,000 per concert)

The SSO's presence contributes to Harford County's quality of life which makes our area an attractive place to live and work. Your contributions will allow us to bring new artists to the stage and purchase/rent new compositions. Pre-concert lectures, the Judith L. Famous Scholarship Benefit concert, and another SCOR workshop for wannabe string players are proof of the SSO's dedication to community enrichment. The SSO Annual Fund is underway and we need your financial support to sustain fine orchestral programming right here in Harford County. (There is free parking and you don't have to fight traffic on I-95!)

To give you an idea of what it takes to implement five concerts a year, a simplified budget is provided (right). Even with all the volunteer hours, the SSO continues to need your financial support through direct donations and your participation in our fundraisers.

INCOME	
State and County Grants	\$5,500
Corporate Cash Support	\$500
Individual Cash Contributions	\$6,000
Advertising	\$2,000
Ticket Sales	\$25,000
Fundraising	\$3,500
TOTAL INCOME	\$42,500

### **EXPENSES**

Production (Artists, Scores,	
Audio, Auditorium rental)	\$24,000
Program and other Printing	\$5,000
Marketing	\$2,500
Admin (Insurance, Copies, Postag	ξe,
Librarian, Orch Manager)	\$8,800
Storage Rental	\$2,300
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$42,400

### Memorial Fund: \$102,963! Help Us Reach our \$400,000 Goal!

The SSO Memorial Fund is an important part of the Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra's ability to sustain its commitment to providing a quality orchestral music experience to Harford County residents. Begun by a bequest from Sibyl Davis Gunther, long time violinist and patron, the Memorial Fund will provide operating funds for the orchestra from interest generated while leaving the principal intact.

### **How Do I Contribute?**

Donations to the operating budget or memorial fund can be made with a credit card on our Web site or with a check made payable to Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra, P.O. Box 963, Abingdon, MD 21009. The SSO is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization.



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The SSO thanks these individuals and businesses for their support this season.

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Full Season (5 Concerts)	\$500	\$400	\$200	\$100
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<sup>\*</sup> The deadline for single concert ads is four weeks prior to the concert date.

# **36th Season Upcoming Concert**

# Reflections on the Civil War—An Anniversary Concert Saturday, May 4, 2013, Bel Air High School, 7:30 p.m.

**Pre-concert lecture:** Dr. James Karmel, Professor of History at HCC, will talk about Civil War Music: instruments used, songs, popular music of the North and South, and also of enslaved peoples and newly-freed African Americans.

If you would like to receive information about next season's concerts and/or notices about upcoming events, please send an e-mail request to <manager@ssorchestra.org>.

### Benefit Chamber Concert

Sunday, April 14, 2013, St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 3:00 p.m.

Annual chamber concert to raise funds for the Judith L. Famous Music Fund.

# Bel Air Outdoor Concert (Free)

Sunday, June 2, 2013, Humbert Memorial Band Shell, 7:00 p.m.

Kickoff the summer with the annual Bel Air Summer Concert Series.

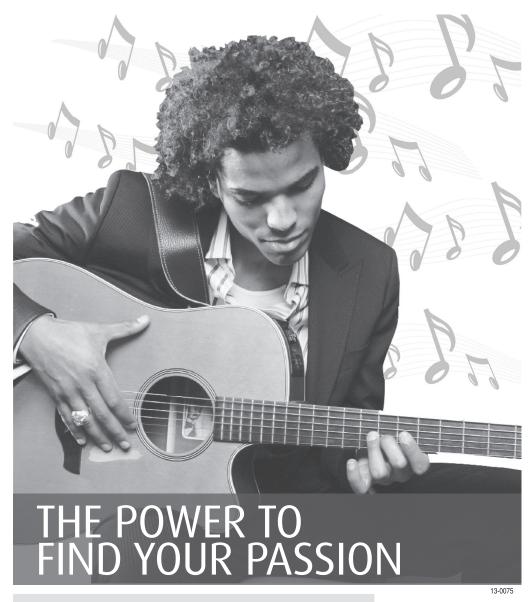
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Large Sleigh Bells	
Mounted Castanets	\$70.00
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